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OPENING OF SCHOOL EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Football Bounces Back Against LaVergne

by CLAY COOPER
Sports Editor, Wide Receiver

After the first two plays from scrimmage of the MBA's week two match up against the LaVergne Wolverines, things did not look good for the Big Red.

The first play gave fans a scare when they saw senior Jay Pilkerton with the ball on a sweep that gained around ten yards before the ball was knocked loose by a Wolverine defender. Senior Jim Beckner was barely able to recover the fumble before the defense could.

On the next play, a double-reverse pass, senior receiver Brian Harris threw an interception to the LaVergne secondary, and sophomore quarterback David Howe was barely able to make the tackle shy of the Big Red's goal line.

The MBA defense, however, proved immediately that they had come to play in week two. Working from their own one-yard line, they were able to make the Wolverine line jump off sides twice while making a goal line stand that set the tone for the entire game.

Other key defensive plays for MBA included interceptions by safeties Chad Hume and Mitchell Williams, a fumble recovery by corner Andrew Warfield, and a blocked punt recovered by Parker Prevost.



Seniors Ian McSterling (#1), Jay Pilkerton (#32), and Erik Landman (#77)

LaVergne (0-2, 0-1) would not score again, totaling only 79 yards of offense against the stout MBA defense. Soon after their failed first drive, the Big Red offense found a rhythm and dominated the Wolverine defense for a 33-3 rout.

The Big Red (1-1, 0-0) gave an offensive effort that was quite improved over last week's performance against Trinity, scoring five touchdowns and not punting over the course of the game. Pilkerton rushed nine times for three touchdowns and 65 yards.

Sophomore quarterback David Howe completed four passes in seven attempts for 67 yards and a touchdown caught by senior Paul Knoll. Senior Caldwell Tanner and junior McGavock Johnson rushed 24 times for a combined 179 yards.

"I think the difference this week was in our preparation for the game," says Pilkerton. "We were more focused in practice and we were determined to win."

Center Leonard Edwards agrees. "We set a goal of 250 yards rushing and a win, and we met it. We didn't have nearly as many mental mistakes as we did last week, and it showed. I think this game has shown us how good we can be."

Noticeably improved in this week's game was the defensive secondary, led by Hume and Mitchell. Last week Louisville Trinity was able to gain 346 yards passing, as opposed to the two yards that LaVergne was allowed on Friday. Hume credits thorough preparation. "We definitely stepped up the level of intensity, both in practice and on the field. We all watched video of LaVergne's offense and knew what they were going to do. We will take the same approach for Southaven."

Continued on p. 2

7:50 Start Time Makes Students Ask, "Why?"

by CURTIS LANE
Editor-in-Chief

With the 2004-2005 school year starting today, most students will soon notice the many changes that MBA has made over the summer. The first and most obvious change is that the school day now starts ten minutes earlier so that we can meet with our advisors. I'm sure that many of you are in your advisor's room right now as you read this article. This change will probably be one of the most hotly debated topics on campus over the next few weeks. In conversations with my friends, and at the Leadership meeting that MBA held on August 19th, the general reaction to this change is most definitely not a happy one. The first thought that most students, including myself, have when they learn that school starts ten minutes earlier is, "Why?"

I probably learned about this new policy earlier than most people did, and after a few weeks of thinking about it, I understand both sides of the argument fairly well. The average student will complain that he has to wake up earlier in order to get to school ten minutes before we used to. Being the person that likes to walk into class as the bell rings, which Dr. Kinch can attest to, I was not too pleased about losing ten

minutes of precious sleep time. This complaint, while well-founded, is something that should lessen as time goes on and students become accustomed to arriving at school earlier. By the end of the year, the ten minutes that seems like such a big deal to us now will most likely have been almost forgotten by most.

Two other complaints were voiced at the leadership meeting, both of which seemed reasonable to me. Many students use the time before school starts to do homework or finish studying for an upcoming test or quiz. Because of the advisory meetings, many students are afraid that they will lose that last ten minutes of study time for that first period vocab quiz. I think, however, that most advisors are going to be reasonable with their advisees and will allow study time if a student asks for it.

The other objection that was voiced at the meeting was that many first-period classes develop a bond by hanging out before school and that this will no longer be possible. This would probably be my strongest objection, because in my three years at MBA, some of the best times I have had were between 7:30 and 8:00, hanging out with my friends and Mr. Klausner freshman year, Mr. Herring sophomore year, and Dr. Kinch junior year. The administration

hopes that this bond among first-period classes can instead be replaced by a bond among advisee groups. While some students will gripe at this idea, it is a good attempt to promote school unity among grades. From my personal experience, I don't really know many kids in my advisee group very well, and this system should help change that.

During the leadership meeting, Ben Turk, the student council president, talked about how important he felt when he was in 7th or 8th grade and some of the older kids even talked to him. The goal of the system will be to create this same feeling among the younger kids in the high school as they hang out with juniors and seniors every day. While the majority of students, including myself, would probably rather hang out in

their first-period classes than with a bunch of kids whom they don't know very well in their advisee groups, the administration is willing to sacrifice the bonds that form among first-period classes in hopes of creating better school unity.

In my experience, the old advisee system did not work particularly well. This system is merely an experiment that MBA is attempting in order to help improve its advisee/counseling system and to promote school unity. Mr. Whifield and Mrs. Warner, who has assumed the position of Coordinator of Counseling Services, have been working all summer and will continue working to improve MBA's guidance counseling program.

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THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com (simply type "Bell Ringer" into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.

MBA Beats LaVergne

From p. 1

Southaven, a 5-A powerhouse in Mississippi, will be facing the Big Red in week three in a rematch of last year's game that saw MBA win 45-13. Southaven has traditionally been a strong team and will undoubtedly present a challenge.

"I think as long as we play like we did this week, with everyone into the game and focused on what we have to do, we shouldn't have any problem," says Knoll. "But we've got to be on top of our game." If the Big Red gives as strong a performance as they did against LaVergne, the Chargers from Mississippi will have their hands full.

MBA Football Stats

vs. LaVergne

Passing

David Howe: 4-7, 67 yds, 1 TD, 1 INT

Brian Harris: 0-1, 1 INT

Rushing

McGavock Johnson: 19 rushes, 130 yds

Jay Pilkerton: 9 rushes, 65 yds, 3 TDs

Caldwell Tanner: 5 rushes, 51 yds

David Howe: 3 rushes, 11 yds, 1 TD

Receiving

Paul Knoll: 2 receptions, 11 yds, 1 TD

Drew Carey: 1 reception, 45 yds

Jay Pilkerton: 1 reception, 11 yds

Defense

Chad Hume: 1 INT, 23 yds

Mitchell Williams: 1 INT, 31 yds

Matt Bubis: 1.5 sacks

Michael Swett: 2 sacks

Season

Passing

David Howe: 17-34, 209 yds, 1 TD, 2 INTs

Rushing

McGavock Johnson: 27 rushes, 156 yds, 5.8 yd average

Jay Pilkerton: 21 rushes, 143 yds, 3 TDs, 6.8 yd average

Caldwell Tanner: 5 rushes, 51 yds, 9.8 yd average

Receiving

Jay Pilkerton: 5 receptions, 39 yds, 7.8 yd average

Brian Harris: 4 receptions, 49 yds, 12.2 yd average

Paul Knoll: 4 reception, 24 yds, 1 TD, 6.0 yd average

Drew Carey: 3 receptions, 73 yds, 24.3 yd average

William Benson: 1 reception, 24 yds, 24.0 yd average

Kick Returns

Chambliss Shillinglaw: 6 returns, 225 yds, 1 TD, 37.5 yd average

Defense

Chad Hume: 1 INT, 23 yds

Mitchell Williams: 1 INT, 31 yds

Editorial

School Starts Earlier

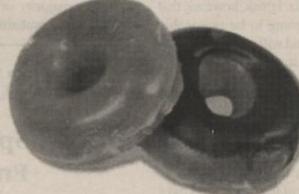
From p. 1

Regardless of whether or not one likes the changes that have been made, it is impossible to argue with the fact that MBA has made them with good intentions. Only time will tell if these visions turn into reality, but I would like ask every one of you to at least give the new system a chance. While I agree with almost every objection that has been lodged by students, I think that this system has a chance to turn into something really good. It could fail tremendously, but it also could really bring the school together, and what happens depends mostly on the students and the attitude that they have towards it. I urge everyone to give the system a chance, and not go into your advisor's room every morning just knowing that it is going to be awful. Students, get there a little early and become friends with the other kids in your group, get to know them and your advisor better, develop a bond in your advisee group rather than your first period class. Advisors, bring doughnuts or some type of food occasionally, get to know your advisee's better, talk about something other than school, make that ten minutes a time for students to relax a little bit, don't just have everyone sit as you read the announcements to them.

If any students or faculty have any comments about the new advisee system, please feel free to send a letter or just a few comments to *The Bell Ringer*, and they will be published in the next edition. I would like to encourage everyone to send letters to me, the editor, at any time and to voice your opinion throughout the school year. The entire staff of *The Bell Ringer* will be working hard all year to ensure that everyone on campus is heard and to help aid in the school's mission of better unity. Lastly, I would like to wish everyone good luck on the beginning of a new school year.

WRITE FOR THE BELL RINGER!!!

COME VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE ACTIVITY
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FREE DOUGHNUTS IF YOU SIGN UP

Football Team Works Hard in Summer Heat

by CLAY COOPER
Sports Editor

The pride and tradition of MBA football will not be entrusted to the timid or the weak.

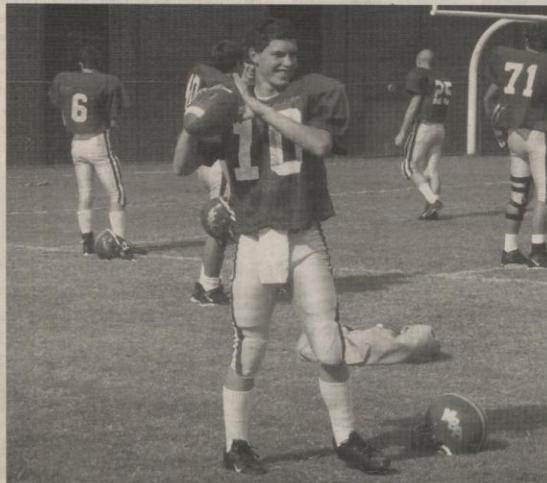
This message greeted the 2004 Big Red team just as it had greeted the teams before them, printed across a page in the team workout book where it would be seen daily for the extent of the rigorous off-season training regimen; it served as a reminder of what the team and each individual player were working hard to achieve - a continuation of the dominance of Big Red football that could only be found in a state championship.

The extensive and arduous nature of the team's training program is a source of pride for most players, because rarely is such commitment required of opposing teams or even teammates in other sports. This pride is what motivates the Big Red players to sacrifice a large part of their summer to improving themselves and their team for the upcoming season, including several hours a day from the beginning of June to the first game toward the end of August.

When the team begins workouts in early June, their physical and mental preparation has already been planned in the workout books. Workouts are scheduled four times a week for the next eight weeks,

and various types of conditioning and endurance work are planned for every weekday (that's five times a week) including sprints on the track, hill sprints near school, and agilitys workouts on various fields

around campus. These workouts and runs are mandatory, and it would be difficult to finish them at the end of August without being significantly stronger and more conditioned.



Sophomore Quarterback David Howe smiles for the camera during a recent practice.

Included in the training schedule is a period called 'test week,' during which players are expected to determine their best bench press, squat, and power clean performances as well as make a five-mile run to Vanderbilt football stadium and back and run sixteen eighty-yard sprints on the track within a short time limit.

Matt Bubis performed well during test week this year, setting team highs in power clean (325 pounds) and squat (500 pounds). Leonard Edwards also set a team high for the bench press with 425 pounds.

Although these individual honors are encouraged and applauded by the football coaching staff, a team mentality that stresses overall accomplishment over individual achievement is supported as well. Coaches emphasize that everything should be done as a team and that every individual's commitment and effort makes the team stronger as a whole.

This hard work over the off-season and the pervasive team attitude have helped the Big Red recover from several key injuries in the off-season, a spell of bad luck that could have weakened the team. Many wondered if all of the work the team had put in over the summer would be in vain if too many players were lost to injury. Those close to the team, however, believe that these difficulties have only made the team more focused on the ultimate goal of winning another state championship.

Upcoming Games For MBA Football

September 3 rd	vs. Southaven, MS
September 10 th	vs. BGA
September 17 th	vs. Baylor
September 23 rd	vs. Father Ryan
October 1 st	@ McCallie
October 8 th	vs. CBHS (Homecoming)
October 22 nd	@ MUS
October 29 th	vs. BA

Cross Country Preview

by KEVIN SEITZ
Assistant Features Editor

While you were enjoying the summer sunshine, your fearless, shirtless and possibly senseless 2004 cross-country team was out traversing the hills of Percy and Edwin Warner Parks in all that blistering heat. Logging countless miles ever since June, they pushed through simple distance runs, two-a-days, hill sprints, tempo workouts, and most recently, the 4-day cross-country camp at scenic Sewanee University. Now, finally, the team has begun to take shape.

Last year, battling injuries and less than favorable circumstances, the extremely young team (with only one senior) finished

off a mediocre year with much higher hopes set on the next. This year has arrived, with the entire varsity squad returning again this year. Brock Baker and fellow seniors Barton Sanders and Andrew Pittman have taken on the task of leading the 40-something troopers, with David Reynolds, Bracey Wilson, (both juniors), Stockton Beveridge (sophomore), and the promising freshman Tyler Ramsden most likely rounding out the top spots.

While the squad is yet untested in meets, it should definitely prove to be a strong year for the MBA cross-country team. Please come out and support your Big Red runners.

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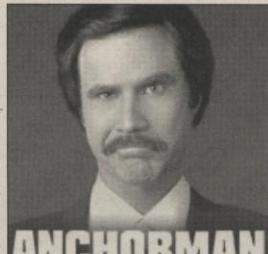
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Summer Movie Reviews: The Cold Hard Truth

by TAYLOR GOULD, BROCK BAKER
AND HUNTER BRANSTETTER
Entertainment Editor, News Editor, and
Features Editor

Anchorman

Gone with the Wind, Lawrence of Arabia, Titanic, Anchorman....Yes! If there was a film of Will Ferrell mowing his lawn, I would watch it, and I'm sure most of you would as well. The man can make wrapping Christmas presents funny, without speaking. This movie was really no different from his other "motion pictures," not quite as good as *Old School*, slightly better than *Night at the Roxbury*. Anchorman really deserves no lengthy description, it's just good old S.N.L. quality humor. 6/8



Will Ferrell was typically hilarious in this summer's smash hit, *Anchorman*

The Manchurian Candidate

Detractors have considered this film a terrible interpretation of the original (1962); several film critics have deemed it possibly the best remake ever. One obvious difference that everyone agrees on is that director Jonathan Demme has instituted an updated and slightly different plot. The Manchurian Global Corporation takes the place of conspiring communists as the antagonists. Director Jonathan Demme takes a shot at neither Republicans nor Democrats, but at the dichotomy in which these two sides prevent any real progress and the amount of influence large corporations have over the entire system. Manchurian Global has found a way to control the White House through a process in which it inserts a microchip into VP candidate Raymond Shaw's (Liev Schreiber) brain. Shaw's mother Eleanor (Meryl Streep) can then activate this chip, a process which provides for one of the movie's most disturbing scenes. Major Ben Marco (Denzel Washington), under whom Shaw served in Kuwait, believes that there is some connection between Manchurian Global, incidents in Kuwait, and another Pfc., Al Melvin (Jeffrey Wright), who served under him in Kuwait as well. Melvin has horrendous nightmares about Kuwait which closely resemble Maj. Marco's chilling figments of the night. The real genius of the film is Demme and the manner in which he creates a surprising and shocking ending while still capturing the essence of the original. While the old version reveals late in the plot that Shaw can be controlled through hypnosis (microchip in the remake), the current film lets the audience know early so that the plot can smoothly advance toward the mind-blowing ending. A creative and fascinating take on an old classic. 7.5/8

Dodgeball

In a summer that produced at least three monumental comedies, *Dodgeball* stands proud as one of the best. Despite staggering similarities between both Peter LaFleur and Bernard from *Old School* and White Goodman and Derek Zoolander, Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller use their formidable comedic skills to complement a great script and quite possibly the best celebrity cameos, ever. If you didn't stay to the bitter, post-credit end, you missed the best part of the movie. 7/8



Ben Stiller, aka White Goodman, lays out to make a catch in *Dodgeball*.

**DON'T MISS THE MBA/
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SEPTEMBER 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th

Spider-Man 2

In this sequel to the 2003 summer blockbuster, Toby Maguire and Kirsten Dunst return in their roles of Peter Parker and his best friend/love interest Mary Jane Watson. Although well-reviewed and successful at the box office, *Spider-Man 2* simply fails to live up to expectations. Action sequences come too few and far between, and even those employ such stretches of imagination that even one viewing it through the lens of comic-book, willing suspension of disbelief, is left thinking, "yeah, right," to himself. The makers of the movie spend too much time trying to develop the human-interest stories in Peter Parker's relationships both with his grandmother and especially with Mary Jane. Dialogue between the two is so wooden and woefully scripted that one is left wincing in his seat, much reminiscent of the Anakin-Padme fiasco in the most recent *Star Wars* movie. 3/8

Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle

Either a clear choice for Best Picture or an easy pick as *High Times* movie of the year, *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle* is a story about learning, love, revenge, and, most importantly, drugs. Featuring the Indian guy from *Van Wilder* as Kumar, the bold and open stoner, and the Asian "miff" guy from *American Pie* as Harold, the worried but equally stoned stoner, the film delivers with two protagonists so strong the actors' names aren't even mentioned in the preview, and the list of funny but not-so-obvious-as-to-seem-contrived celebrity cameos is impressive. Although the movie has no discernible plot, it will keep you laughing to the end; plus, you'll never look at a game of Battleship the way you used to. 6.8/8



Harold and Kumar go on an epic quest to find a White Castle in this instant classic.

Bourne Supremacy

In this sequel to *The Bourne Identity*, Matt Damon stars as former CIA agent Jason Bourne, who, after suffering from amnesia, flees his former position and escapes with his wife to India. He is thrust back into the world of espionage, however, when an assassin sent for him kills Bourne's wife. He embarks on a journey to avenge his wife's death and recover his forgotten past, leading him through various locales in Europe as he must dodge bullets and make harrowing escapes at every turn. *The Bourne Supremacy* moves along at a good pace and does a good job of adding in unexpected twists. The action scenes were done extremely well, although some found the shaky, point-of-view changing camerawork to be distracting. Overall it was a well done, balanced, and entertaining movie. 7/8

O.A.R. Rocks Ryman

by KEVIN THOMAS
Staff Writer

Ingram Hill, a band that started in Memphis in 2002, and *Howie Day* opened for O.A.R. on Saturday, August 21 at the Ryman Auditorium. As the members of O.A.R., which stands for "...Of A Revolution"—lead singer and guitarist Marc Roberge, guitarist Richard On, bassist Ben Gershman, saxophonist Jerry DePizzo, drummer Chris Culos, and special guest Gabe Dixon, who played keyboards for Paul McCartney on the album *Driving Rain*—entered the stage, the audience immediately leaped out of their seats. The crowd hit became frenzied when O.A.R. played the hit

song "Hey Girl." Things got crazy when the light show—lightning flashes of color—electrified the singing and dancing crowd.

Influenced by Bob Marley, Bob Dylan, U2, and the Police, O.A.R. put on quite an amazing show. Late in the last set the band played "City On Down" that morphed into the classic U2 song "With Or Without You." For the encore, the band came out and played their first big hit off the album *The Wanderer*, "That Was a Crazy Game of Poker", that rock and rolled into "No Woman, No Cry" by Bob Marley. This final song, lasting over 15 minutes, got the crowd revved, with fists pumping, signaling "rock on". And they did rock on!

Former MBA Student Drives 1924 Rolls-Royce Coast-to-Coast

by GIL FUQUA
Father of James Fuqua ('04)

James Fuqua, a 2004 graduate of MBA and a College of Charleston freshman, was the youngest driver on a coast-to-coast driving trip recently completed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rolls-Royce. James was a co-driver of a 1924 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost along with his father, Gil Fuqua of Nashville, TN.

The U.S. portion of the trip was the last segment of a tour that began in New Zealand in January 2004 and ended in Monterey, CA in August. The entire tour crossed four continents. James' tour started out in Annapolis, MD with 18 other Silver Ghosts in mid-July that drove over 4,000 miles before arriving in Monterey, CA in mid-August. Other participants in the U.S. tour included cars from eight states and five foreign countries. Several of the cars on the U.S. tour also participated in earlier segments, including New Zealand and Australia.

Commenting on the tour, James stated, "We drove almost the entire distance on back roads and had the opportunity to see the U.S. from a different perspective than if we had been in a modern car. We had the top down almost the entire trip, allowing us to really experience the countryside."

"Our biggest challenges were the mountains in the west. The mountains were steep and it was a lot hotter. We experienced temperatures that ranged from about 40 degrees to 115 degrees. Our route also included a number of interesting side trips, including driving 23 miles on a gravel road across a 12,000' peak to see an old silver mining town in Colorado. The road was named the "Oh my God" road. It did not take us long to see how the road was named when we saw the switchbacks, deep ravines and lack of guardrails along the route."

James' touring companions were comprised of only Silver Ghosts, the first model produced by Rolls-Royce. The Silver Ghost was produced from 1907 until 1926. The oldest Silver Ghost participating on the U.S. tour was a 1912 model from the U.K. and the newest ones included two 1926 models, one from the U.S. and one from Portugal.

"The Silver Ghost was declared 'The Best Car in the World' by an early motoring journalist after completing a 15,000 mile reliability trial in 1907 without any



James Fuqua ('04) and his father drove this car over 4,000 miles to Pebble Beach.

problems," noted James. "All the cars completed the entire trip without major mechanical problems. The biggest problem our group had was with tires. We were lucky. We drove the entire way without even a flat tire. We serviced the car daily and monitored the car closely to be sure we wouldn't have any problems."

The final leg of the trip was timed to coincide with the Pebble Beach car show. Rolls-Royce was one of the featured marques at Pebble Beach this year in honor of its 100th year celebration. Seven of the Silver Ghosts participating in the cross-country trip were selected for display at Pebble Beach, including the Fuqua's 1924 model. "Pebble Beach was a great way to end our trip. Our car was displayed on the 18th fairway along with the fantastic show cars that ranged from Duesenberg's to Jay Leno's Crane Simplex, a car I'd never heard of at the time. I believe our Silver Ghosts attracted a lot of attention due to our driving them over 4,000 miles to attend. The other cars at Pebble Beach were more like museum pieces that were on display. The trip was great, but I was happy to return home and drive a modern car again with a CD player and air conditioning."

James Fuqua is a freshman at the College of Charleston and plans to major in international business.

Dave Matthews Plays at Amsouth...Again

by NICK RHODA
Staff Writer

August 4th: A day that will live in our minds until Dave comes back next year.

As the rain started to pour down on us Dave fanatics, I still couldn't believe that I had just spent forty-five dollars on my sixteenth consecutive Dave Matthews Band concert in Nashville (really only my third). I was drenched, claustrophobic, and surrounded by yelling white people with seemingly horrible optic allergic irritations.

With the help of a strong southern following and a fan base with impressive disposable income, the band has built an almost obligatory concert legacy at AmSouth Amphitheater, otherwise known as Starwood to us old-schoolers. Standstill traffic and rising ticket prices don't phase southerners making the mecca year after year for the robotic, impersonal Dave Matthews Band.

But THIS year seemed different. Because Dave wasn't promoting material off a new album, the band wasn't forced to play past-their-prime songs that nobody really enjoys. Instead, they had the freedom to peruse their wonderful song history, playing notably "Crush" and "Tripping Billies." Although they didn't play my personal favorite, "Two Step," the play list easily made this year stand out. A friendly

population mixed with familiar songs and a slash of rain almost forced you to dance spinelessly with that girl you kind of know from somewhere.

Despite a somewhat slow ending/encore and because of a never ending flow of acquaintances, a memorable play list, and the special rain factor, I give the 2004 summer Dave Matthews Band concert a token 3 and a half annoying-Alabamdukes-who—"drove all the way out just to see Dave, Woooooo" out of five.

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1000 Words on Three Weeks at Winchester

by BROCK BAKER
News Editor

This past June, I, along with Matthew Christie, traveled to Winchester, England to spend three weeks as a student at Winchester College. This over 600-year-old institution is the oldest high school in England and consistently ranks at or near the top in the performance of its students on the nationwide exams which everyone must take at the conclusion of his junior and senior years. Thus, as an all-male, academically rigorous college preparatory school, Winchester College felt similar to MBA in many respects. I knew I was in for a new scholastic experience, however, when the first words I heard spoken at my first school function were 'Salve, omnes. Gaudete ut adsit.' The speaker (a student) then continued to give from memory a four-to-five minute oration in Latin of his own writing to the assembled school body. To my great relief I later found out that the boys and teachers do not address each other in Latin in every-day conversation.

Although Winchester College is of similar size to MBA (over 600 students in grades 8-12), because of the boarding school system of houses the school has a much smaller feel. There are eleven houses, with ten to fifteen students from each grade year in each house. Boys spend much of their free time at the house under the supervision of the housemaster, a don (teacher) at the school who lives in the private side of the house. Each house has a garden and a yard for recreation, and mine had a tennis court as well. Boys eat all meals at the house, and I found the food tasty (*much* better than our MBA cafeteria), although the portions were rather small. I was hungry for much of the trip and lost weight despite routinely eating a fourth meal before bed. The tradition of senior privileges is firmly entrenched at Winchester, as housemasters make the first-and second-year students perform many favors for the older boys. Indeed, I greatly enjoyed having a first-year wake me up just before breakfast each morning and having my



Seniors Brock Baker (left) and Matthew Christie on the Westminster Bridge.

plates cleared for me after meals by seconds. Overall, the boarding experience was a new and enjoyable one.

Winchester also differs from MBA in that the boys receive far less homework. I took a standard course load (four subjects) and in three weeks had only five written assignments to turn in. At first I thought the dons were simply going easy on me, the American exchange student, but upon conversation with my peers I discovered that this pattern of work was the norm. This is not, however, to suggest that Winchester College is by any means second to MBA in academics, as I found my peers to be quite bright and the quality of teaching superb.

One place where I felt right at home was in my Latin class. Winchester, like MBA, requires all boys to take at least two years of Latin. I felt comfortable reading selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and *Ars*

though there is a bit of truth behind most stereotypes, in general the boys were entirely unassuming and laid-back.

While I was in England, I thoroughly enjoyed getting to take in a new culture. The European Football (soccer) tournament occurred during my stay in Winchester, and it was an interesting experience to watch the intense national excitement and inevitable disappointment that the English feel for their national football team. I can't think of anything quite comparable that we have here in America, but I think what it would be like if everyone in the nation were a die-hard Boston Red Sox fan who got his hopes up for the play-offs each year and went into depression when they inevitably lost to the Yankees. It's something like that. I also enjoyed getting to try new foods. I'm now a fan of rice pudding, Steak and Guinness Pie, and scones, to name a few. Another experience new to me was learning to play cricket, and after watching parts of several games, I can conclusively say that it is the slowest, most boring sport in the world. It makes baseball look lightning-fast. Cricket matches can often last for days, and there are scheduled breaks for the teams to eat lunch and dinner. Yet despite all this, many of my English friends swore that it is most enjoyable to both play and watch.

Other highlights of the trip included competing in an inter-house track and field competition, winning the both the 1500 and 3000 meter runs, and two day-trips which Matthew and I took to London. The first time we went by train with a student as our guide, and the second time we were allowed to go to London for the day by ourselves. It was great fun to see Big Ben, the houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Greenwich and the Prime Meridian, and several art museums.

My exchange to Winchester was an amazing experience that I shall never forget. I made many friends with whom I still keep up by email, and I cannot wait to return to England someday. Many thanks to Mr. Gioia and Mr. and Mrs. Warner for making this incredible experience possible.

Mrs. Warner Talks About Her New Role

by BROCK BAKER
News Editor

Anyone who has graduated from MBA in the past nine years knows Mrs. Warner from her position in college counseling. They remember her for her encouraging smile, gentle reminders about deadlines, and never-ending supply of candy available in her office. Although her role has now changed, her office is still in the basement of Carter, across the hall from her old office.

But now, after nine years of guiding juniors and seniors through the college selection process, she is laying aside her college counseling role as she assumes the position of Coordinator of Counseling Services. Recently *The Bell Ringer* caught up with her to ask her some questions about this change.

Bell Ringer: What was your favorite part about working in college counseling, and what will you miss most?

Mrs. Warner: My favorite part is getting to know the guys. It really makes it all fun. By the time [the seniors] graduate, I know everyone. In my new position I hope to get to know more students, not just the seniors.

BR: Could you describe your new position for us?

Mrs. Warner: Well, my official title is "Coordinator of Counseling Services." I'll be coordinating the foreign exchange program, both for our students going abroad and exchange students coming here. I'll also work with Mr. Coverstone on the advisor/advisee program. Also, I will be working with Mr. Whittfield in guidance counseling. We hope to take guidance counseling in some new directions this year, and provide good counseling services to fit the needs of our students.

BR: Could you comment on the new ten-minute advisee session every day before school?

Mrs. Warner: Well, it was a group decision, which stemmed from the fact that [in the old system] you met with your advisor only once per month. This will be an opportunity for the advisor to really get to know his or her advisees better. Another interesting thing to note is that when my son went to MBA in 1994, school started every day at 7:50.

BR: Why did you decide to make the switch from college counseling?

Mrs. Warner: I was ready for a new challenge and wanted something where I could still work with the boys. I will still have candy in my office, not just for seniors, but for all students. I started the college counseling job with the attitude that I wouldn't work very long, but that was ten years ago. It's been fun.

BR: Is there anything else you would like the students to know?

Mrs. Warner: My door is always open, and nothing is too trivial to talk about. No matter what it is, feel welcome to come in and talk.



MBA Greets New Students At Picnic

On August 26th, MBA welcomed its new families with a picnic. *The Bell Ringer* was there to take pictures and talk to a few people:

"We talked about being a gentleman, and how the motto gentleman, scholar, athlete is a priority at MBA."

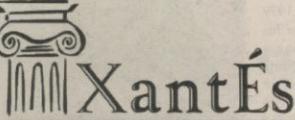
-JEFFREY NUTKISS, New 7th Grader

"The experience has put the boys at ease, we hope, and it's not just about the food! Also, as Mr. Tillman says--every year it's about telling them to 'Seize the Day'!"

-DR. BAILEY, MBA History Teacher



(From l to r) Andrew D'Aquila, William Tanner, Neil Reinhardt, Mac Hudson, Sam Embry



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Mayor's Youth Council Ready to Begin Year

by STUART COOK
Staff Writer

Since Mayor Bill Purcell's inauguration in 1999, the MYC (Mayor's Youth Council) has stood as an advisory council which voices the issues and concerns of Nashville's youth to the Mayor. The council consists of thirty-two juniors and seniors (including MBA seniors Will Smith and Stuart Cook) who come from very different racial, geographic, and ethnic backgrounds. During the course of the school year, the council will meet monthly to discuss and organize events and will meet with the Mayor quarterly to brief him on the progress that the council has made. Some significant events which the council regularly organizes are the Citywide Talent Show, a concert which was designed to promote the diverse talents of Nashville's youth, and the Mayor's Youth Summit, which is a forum held at the Nashville Convention Center where youth from all over the city can voice their opinions on serious teen issues. The council also participates in various activities such as the Mayor's First Day Festival, MLK Day Celebration, and PULSE Day. Aside from organizing and participating in events, the council is involved in a network of much more detailed and complex duties which are performed by the liaisons. These liaisons give input on government policies and practices that affect teenagers. The boards and commissions that the liaisons are appointed to include the Arts Commission, the Board of Health, the Educational Access Corporation, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Planning Commission, the Police Department, the Public Library Board, the Public Works Department, and the Social Services Commission. As the council embarks on the 2004-2005 school year, it is enthusiastic about the leadership of its newly elected chairman, Ben Shaffer, a senior from USN, and the many challenging and exciting objectives to be reached. The council would love the volunteer support of any of Nashville's youth, and it wishes the youth of Nashville a wonderful school year.

The Bell Ringer Greets New Teacher, Dr. Seay

by TAYLOR SHOPE and CURTIS LANE
Assistant Features Editor

Dr. Rick Seay is one of the new Latin teachers who have come to MBA this year after the retirement of two teachers last year. Dr. Seay graduated from MBA in 1979 and then moved on to Vanderbilt for his undergraduate work. After receiving a Master's degree from Tennessee State University, he completed his EdD in administration and supervision between work both at Vandy and TSU. Dr. Seay had a brief stint as a teacher at MBA in 1982 but has come back after teaching at Hillwood High School for eighteen years and being Principal at East Academy, which he helped start, for the past three years. Along with teaching Latin, Dr. Seay will be a sophomore class advisor, will help out with the service club, and plans on directing some competitive theater.

Bell Ringer: How will teaching Latin at MBA be different than at Hillwood?

Dr. Seay: It will be different first off because MBA is an all-boys' school. There were many times when my Latin classes at Hillwood would have considerably more girls than boys. Also, I'll be teaching far fewer classes here. At Hillwood, I taught all Latin levels from Latin I through both AP courses. In addition, I was also teaching AP European history.



Dr. Seay joins the long list of MBA grads who have come back to teach here

BR: How many Latin students did you teach at Hillwood?

Dr. Seay: In a normal year, I'd teach around 130 students in all five of my classes. Each class would have between 25 to 30 students.

BR: Who were your Latin teachers at MBA?

Dr. Seay: My Latin I and II years were a blur. We went through three teachers in Latin I and three more in Latin II after Mrs. Frances Lentz retired. FINALLY—in Latin III, I had Andy Gaither and managed to have him for the entire year. Fortunately for me, Andy changed my whole attitude toward Latin (which was truly a garbled mess up to that point). I went on to take both Latin IV AP and Latin V AP with Ed Gaffney.

BR: Did they or any other teachers at MBA inspire you to go into teaching?

Dr. Seay: They did absolutely (even though I always thought I'd go into teaching since both my parents were teachers and administrators). Andy and Ed were huge influences on me as were Virginia Hollins and Jeanine Bowers (French) and Michael Drake (American and European history). Something that all of these instructors held in common was a passion for their subjects and yet a warmth towards their students and an enjoyment of teaching as well.

BR: What is your best memory from your time as a student at MBA?

Dr. Seay: I have so many because it was a terrific six years. Right off the top of my head, I think I would include the first time I made the Privilege List in 7th grade, being inducted into Totomoi, and Coach Owen's recognizing me at our graduation ceremony.

BR: Why did you leave East Academy?

Dr. Seay: The answers to this one are multiple, but the best answer I can give is that I really missed being in the classroom. Even though the challenges and excitement of starting a school and watching it grow from nothing were tremendous, I also needed to be true to what makes me happiest, and that's being in the classroom.

BR: What are you most looking forward to as we begin this school year?

Dr. Seay: Meeting a new group of students, getting involved right away with different projects, and revisiting some wonderful Latin authors.

Upcoming Events

Soup Kitchen-9/4-9 AM

Special Olympics-9/11-10 AM

Senior College Night-9/13-7 PM

Golf Regions Tournament @ Harpeth Hills Golf Course-9/20

Golf State Tournament @ Old Fort Golf Course-9/28 & 29

Soup Kitchen-10/2-9 AM

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